

ast Amount of Capital and Labor Wastes in Wines and Writes Analyst

O. C. Thornton Declares Only
Victims or Dealers Object
to Dry Nation

Urges Entertainment
To Replace Saloons

Suggests That Several Years
Be Allowed for Elimina-
tion of Beer

Today, in the fourth week of The
Tribune's forum of prohibition, there
arises one who analyzes the "wet"
forces. He is O. C. Thornton, who
insists that few, except those who
are engaged in the liquor business
and those who are victims of drink
are conscientious objectors to a
"dry" nation. He writes:

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: In the discussion of the prohibition
question it is both interesting and
important to note that even some of
the most learned and eminent of the
"anti" confound their arguments to only
a certain phase of the question, and
we find that their line of reasoning
will not always bear close analysis, nor
can it be followed to its logical con-
clusions.

Dr. Henry Smith Williams, in your
forum of May 1, states that his principal
objection to prohibition is the in-
fringement of personal liberty. Will
the doctor tell us why this same prin-
ciple does not apply to the prohibition
of the use and sale of drugs? He cer-
tainly does not advocate that all cer-
tainly should be removed from the
sale of opium, cocaine, heroin, etc., be-
cause the majority have decided that it
is curtailed thereby, and that "temper-
ance" in the use of these drugs might
be promoted by restoring them to legal
traffic. Surely, anything that impairs
the strength and efficiency as a nation
is a fit subject for restriction by the
law of the land.

To say that we should not by legisla-
tion determine what a man shall eat
or drink is evading the question by
stating it in a most un-
favorable way, calculated to stir up
prejudice against prohibition rather
than to argue for it. The "wet" and
"dry" alike know that the main issue
is to stop the sale of alcohol,
and no one will contend that the
right to sell to his neighbor
any poison or anything that will hurt
him is a privilege, but it is a privilege
that society may take away at its option
and the right to sell to his neighbor
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away at its option and the right to sell
to his neighbor any poison or anything
that will hurt him is a privilege that
society may take away at its option.

The scientists, psychologists and
theorists may be found on both sides
of every question. Fortunately, we need
only go to the statistics to find the
true amount of the waste in the man-
ufacture and consumption of alcoholic
beverages. We can go to the records of the insurance
companies, the records of the temper-
ance or intemperate use of alcohol
beverages tends to prolong life
by promoting health and efficiency. The
life insurance companies are not in-
fluenced by sentiment, but they are
here we may expect to find a record of
facts which none may dispute.

In all lines of work where a clear
head is required, the use of liquor is
prohibited. The players of men who
hold responsible positions where life
and property may be endangered by
carelessness or in-
sufficiency have already given their
answer.

Prohibition
For Posterity
The great stronghold of the wet
is in the vast amount of money in-
vested in the liquor business and the
great profits that are made. It is be-
cause of this that many of our
friends the antis are so solicitous
of our "personal liberties" and the
"rights" of the individual. The "con-
scientious objectors" to this great state
forward, while honest in their views,
and among them many eminent and
men, are comparatively few in num-
ber. The vast majority of these are
men who are financially interested in
the traffic and those who are addicted
to the use of alcohol by force of habit,
and who are temperately or intemperately
it is evident that the latter class can-
not be expected to express an entirely
unprejudiced view as to the good or
evil effects of prohibition from a social
and economic standpoint. Many of the
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evil effects of prohibition from a social
and economic standpoint.

Let us have organized effort every-
where for wholesome places and oppor-
tunities for providing entertainment
and social recreation to take the place
of the saloon. If this done the
saloon and dive will not be missed and
its victims will speed its way. It is
always the centre and rallying ground
for the forces of evil. It is a source
of great economic loss to the nation
in addition to its greater waste in
its own profits to those engaged in
it. There is no place in a world more
efficiently organized after the war, and
it should go now as a war measure.

The question is as to whether the sale
of beer should be permitted for a time
as a policy, and has much to be
said in its favor. So many are ac-
counted to its use without apparent
harm to themselves or to the com-
munity that at least a number of years
should be allowed for its elimination.
It is not being accustomed to the
years of association and habit that
we do not desire a greater economy
and better health would result. The
sale of wine and alcoholic beverages
for the time being is more camouflage
for the denunciation known are concealed
in some of the cheaper wines.

O. C. THORNTON.

A Laboring Man
Speaks for Beer
The following is from "a believer
in live and let others live to enjoy
their own pleasures," who writes
from Route 4, Norwich, N. Y.:

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: I am as you might say a poor

man with a family. My wages are \$20
per week and I am a drinking man, but
I cannot afford an auto, and cannot get
why my pleasures are to be denied me.
The laws that say you cannot fish
on Sunday, cannot go to a baseball
game on Sunday, but a man that can
own a car can go for a ride on Sunday.
Now, I think it high time that these
dispositions should get some one to open
their eyes, and wake up the idea
that the laboring man should have
some pleasure in his lifetime—even
though he be only a glass of beer now
and then.

Only the other morning I heard one
"dry" say to another: "I am all in this
morning. I did not get my coffee and
I cannot get along without it. Who-
ever heard of a man that cannot get
along without a cup of coffee? They
were all in because they did not get
their glass of beer for breakfast? Talk
about a bad habit, that if that fellow
had not had his beer he would have
been a fool. Why should the majority of the
people of the United States be denied their
privilege just because a few cannot
control their will power?"

JOHN G. SHEPARD.

Wants to Live Happy
If Not Long
A man on East Thirty-fourth
street, who signs himself "An American
Citizen," enters the following
protest against the curtailment of his
personal liberty to drink liquor:

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: Mr. Samuel Wilson says truly
in his letter to The Tribune that the
real question at issue in the prohibition
controversy is whether alcoholic
beverages are a poison. It is doubtless
true that if undiluted alcohol is taken
into the system in sufficiently large
quantities it will act as a poison. So
would a large quantity of coffee or
tea. This does not prove that salt is
a poison or that its moderate use is
injurious.

Our readers are doubtless familiar
with the advertising campaign against
coffee conducted by the manufacturer
of a well-known substitute. It is stated
that coffee is a poison, and that it
causes a large quantity of coffee to be
consumed. It is also stated that coffee
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Ban on Alcohol Is
Urged as War Measure

Wilson Gets Memorial Signed By
Representatives of Many
Churches

WASHINGTON, May 14.—Complete
prohibition of the manufacture and
sale of alcoholic beverages during the
war was asked of President Wilson and
Congress today in a memorial signed by
the national service and war-time
committees of twenty Protestant de-
nominations and six interdenominational
agencies.

The signers included the war com-
missioners of the Federal Council of the
Churches of Christ in America, the
Northern and Southern Baptist con-
ventions, the Northern and Southern
Methodist churches, the Northern and
Protestant Episcopal churches, the Con-
gregational churches, the Disciples of
Christ, the Evangelical Association, the
Evangelical Synod, the Reformed
Church in the United States, the United
Presbyterian Church, the Methodist
Episcopal Church, the United
Evangelical Church, the Unitarian
churches, the Lutheran General Synod,
the Salvation Army and the War Work
Council of the Y. M. C. A.

Plays and Players

The season of the Actors' and Au-
thors' Theatre begins next Monday
evening at the Fulton Theatre with
"Her Honor the Mayor," a three-act
comedy by Arline Van Ness Hines, and
"The Good Men Do," by Hubert Os-
borne. Laura Nelson Hall, Amelia Sum-
merfield, Auriel Lee and Etienne
Girardot are in the cast of the comedy.

Hilda Spong, Mrs. Thomas Wise
and H. Ashton Tongue will do the one-
act play. It has been said that event-
ually the Actors' and Authors' Theatre
will be used to present plays gathered
up from trunks and cupboards of the
members, but this will not be the case.
The public will see as good and most
likely a good deal better plays given
by the Actors' and Authors' Theatre
as are on view at some of the more
commercial theatres.

Edith Taliaferro, hitherto unsus-
pected of a voice and nimble heels, is
to have a musical comedy in the early
fall. Recently the Robins Players, a
Scotch company, came to the city and
heather in the north seas, have for
hundreds of years been steady users of
alcohol. If they are "poisoned" how
can it be that they are physically
and mentally the strongest of men
and alcohol using Mahometans, Chinese
and Hindus?

At times and my work, in certain
rush periods, I have done it and I
some. I depend on a moderate drink
or two before dinner. Is that to be
taken away from me because some
fantastic persons in the past have
gone louder than I, choosing public
places to make his noise in?

If he will use the same amount of
energy in striving for decent excise
laws and the prohibition of them
my personal liberty as a law-abiding
citizen is not curtailed, and if alcohol
is a poison, will live happier and
more comfortable, although not as
long, which will suit me, as I regulate
my own life to suit my conditions.

AN AMERICAN CITIZEN.

The Dolly Sisters will join the mid-
night night at Century Grove next
week, doing "The Shubert Sisters."
We have left the twins, Elliott,
Comstock & Gest until August
only.

"Love of Mike," a musical show that
ran last season, will be sent by the
Shubert to the sixteen training camps
of the country. The Shubert Sisters
will carry the scenery and the costumes
and the actors will find only living ex-
penses in their pay envelopes. Clif-
ford Comstock and Stella Hoban are among
the patriotic players who have aban-
doned any idea of regular summer en-
gagements in order to entertain the
boys in camp.

Marjorie Rameau, who has been
absent from the cast of "The Eyes of
the World" since she went skating
one afternoon last winter, returns to
her dressing room at the Maxine El-
liott Theatre Monday evening with all
bones whole again and a new clause
in her contract regarding athletic
prohibitions.

The first aeroplane mail carrier fly-
ing today from New York to Phila-
delphia, Baltimore and Washington
will carry contracts from Elliott Com-
stock & Gest to five members of the
"Oh Boy" company, now in Philadel-
phia.

No stars will be seen strolling on
Broadway next Sunday, for they will
all be at the Liberty Theatre, Camp
Upton, giving a performance in honor
of Major General J. Franklin Bell. Pri-
vate Irving Berlin is arranging the
event, and Fred Stone, Al Jolson,
and the Liberty Theatre, Camp Upton,
giving a performance in honor of
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and the Liberty Theatre, Camp Upton,
giving a performance in honor of
Major General J. Franklin Bell.

Fanny Brice has been engaged to ap-
pear in the Ziegfeld "Midnight Frolic"
on the New Amsterdam Theatre Roof
on May 30. She submitted a new act,
but will incorporate into it the ac-
cent that so endears her to New York.

Frederick Remsen Hutton
He Was Member of Columbia
Faculty for Thirty Years

Frederick Remsen Hutton, professor
of mechanical engineering at Colum-
bia University from 1877 to 1907, died
yesterday morning at his home, 257
West Eighty-sixth street. He was six-
ty-four years old.

Drama
Burlesque of the New School
Still Retains Echoes
of the Past

By Heywood Brown
A few seasons ago the producers be-
gan to call it "refined burlesque." They
declared their allegiance to all the
proprieties and repudiated the burles-
que manners of days that were gone.
As it happened we quit the burlesque
houses just about that time. We want
to keep our memories.

There was Pat White, whom we used
to see at the Old Howard in Boston.
Probably there were other people who
could explode a slapstick against the
lower part of a person's back as humor-
ously as Mr. White, but not for us.
We used to laugh before the catastro-
phe occurred. In fact, much of the
humor was in the preliminaries.

Then, too, the prodigious use of stage
greenbacks, chimneys for money,
which we had in those days. In most
shows huge rolls of yellow bills
changed hands. The comedians were
always being enticed to take a million
and losing. When they sought to re-
coup by playing an identical trick upon
the audience they invariably got the
comedian's money some way and
lost still more heavily.

One of the wagers which invariably
trapped the low comedian was, "I'll bet
you haven't got a shirt on your back."
The two parties would close to the
footlights, and then the sharp man
would pick up the shirt and say, "You
haven't got a shirt on." We omit the
dialect, because in those days it was
usually German. After accepting the
wager the sharp man took off his coat
to prove his point and walked away
with the money, leaving the low com-
edian waiting in his most broken ac-
cent, "But half of the buck is on the
front."

And so the shows went mingling
tragedy and comedy with indiscrimi-
nate much cuteness, and were willing
to accept old jokes and leers and things
as true wickedness. "Ah, but we have
lived," was our state of mind when we
went to the theatre after an Old Howard
performance. It was with some misgiv-
ings that we went yesterday to the
Columbia to see "Hello America,"
which is set for a summer run. We
must admit that the burlesque shows
are not quite what they used to be, but
not quite what we feared as wicked as
or as gay as Shanghai. And yet it did
not seem to us that refinement had
been stressed to the detriment of the
speech was adequately maintained in a
bantering scene between the low com-
edian and a tall young person in pur-
ple tights.

Sam Lewis and Sam Dody are the
stars of the piece. Lewis is a Jewish
rascal and Dody an Italian. For the
most part the comedy is good, and in
spite of the fact that there is no slap-
stick. Money changed hands with the
conventional carelessness, but we were
amused. The comedy was good, and in
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conventional carelessness, but we were
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We are in some doubt about the
plot of "Hello America." Burlesque
shows have greater freedom in the
matter of plots than even musical
comedies. The producers are permitted
to begin a story and abandon it in
midcareer. We listened carefully and
felt certain that no information was
given to us as to what became of the
conspiracy between Bud Baker and
Miss Della Ware. As we understood
it she was to get an engagement in a
theatrical company by pretending to
be an actress when she was really a
jewelry of her fellow players. But
Baker, her accomplice, pretended to be
a stage-door man. Long before the
scheme could reach fruition or failure
her contract regarding athletic
prohibitions.

All the Allies were represented and
applauded, with the unfortunate ex-
ception of the German. The German
negro happened to have been in the
house yesterday. The final group
of girls wore American flag costumes,
and by a ingenious device a flag was
shot to the roof of the stage. When
the second act commenced we discov-
ered that the Jewish and the Italian
comedian had gone into blackface and
were now playing the part of a Jew
and an Italian. We were amused. The
comedy was good, and in spite of the
fact that there is no slapstick. Money
changed hands with the conventional
carelessness, but we were amused.

Henry Miller's Theatre
Billie Burke
Henry Miller
in "A Marriage of Convenience"

Liberty Theatre
Going Up
The Aviation Musical Comedy Sensation.

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New State Barge
Canal to Open for
Business To-day

Inaugurates Through Traf-
fic Between Hudson River
and Great Lakes

Main Line 352 Miles

Experts Estimate Its Freight
Capacity at Half a Million
Carloads

ALBANY, May 14.—The new State
Barge Canal, completed at a cost of
more than \$150,000,000, will be opened
to through traffic between the Hudson
River and the Great Lakes to-morrow.
Formal observance of the opening will
be held later, probably on July 4.

The main line of the Barge Canal,
which follows in part the route of the
famous old Erie Canal from Troy to
Buffalo, is 352 miles in length, and the
tributary Oswego and Cayuga-Seneca
canals give an additional mileage of
100. The Champlain Canal, connecting
Lake Champlain and the Hudson, is
eighty miles in length, making the
total mileage of the New York system
of navigable inland waterways 552.

The main line is the only direct
water route between the Great Lakes
and the Atlantic seaboard. Traffic ex-
perts and engineers estimate its capac-
ity of 10,000,000 tons of freight an-
nually, equivalent to half a million
freight car loads. Control of the canal
traffic was taken over by the Federal
government on April 17, in connection
with the administration of all trans-
portation lines.

In the construction of the barge
canal more than 100,000,000 cubic yards
of rock and earth were excavated and
more than 3,000,000 cubic yards of
concrete have been used in construct-
ing locks, dams and retaining walls.

Benefit for Homeless Boys

Music, Dancing and Movies at
Ritz To-day

An entertainment for the New York
Home for Homeless Boys will be given
at the Ritz-Carlton to-day under the
direction of Mrs. Philip A. S. Franklin.
Mrs. Charles C. Chapman and Mrs.
Sherwood Aldrich. The patronesses in-
clude Mrs. Lawrence B. Elliman, Mrs.
William Floyd Jones, Mrs. Theodore A.
Franklin, Mrs. Walter Jannison, Mrs.
William B. Franklin and Mrs. W. R. K.
Taylor.

Mrs. Tarleton Winchester, violinist,
and Mrs. Russell Landale, soprano, will
be among the entertainers. There will
be interpretative dancing and new mov-
ie pictures. The boys' orchestra from
the home, which is at 441 East 123d
Street, will furnish the music.

Mayor of Denver Dead

DENVER, May 14.—Robert W.
Speer, Mayor of Denver and widely
known through the country as an au-
thority on municipal government, died
here of pneumonia this afternoon after
a short illness. He was sixty-four
years old.

Speer had been Mayor of Denver
for three years. He came to Denver for
his health when he was twenty-two,
and three years later was elected city clerk
on the Democratic ticket. Throughout
his succeeding years he held many politi-
cal positions.

NEW YORK'S LEADING THEATRES AND SUCCESSSES

EMPIRE 42nd and 43rd Sts. Eves. 8:15.
MATINEE TO-DAY, Sat. 2:15.
"DISTINCT SUCCESS." Times
CHARLES FRANZ presents
ETHEL
BARRYMORE
BELINDA
in the new 3 act comedy.
"If you don't like Belinda then you
don't know a delightful person when
you see one."—Alon Dole.
PRECEDED BY J. M. BARRE'S
"THE NEW WORD"

COHAN THEATRE 43rd St. Eves. 8:15.
MATINEE TO-DAY, Sat. 2:15.
"THE RAINBOW GIRL"
NEW AMSTERDAM 42nd St. Eves. 8:15.
MATINEE TO-DAY, Sat. 2:15.
"KISS BURGLAR"
COHAN & HARRIS 42nd St. Eves. 8:15.
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MATINEE TO-DAY, Sat. 2:15.
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Mail Aero to Carry Red Cross
Pledge from Whitman to Wilson

Postmaster Patten Arranges to Give Letter Precedence in
Service Starting To-day; Hughes Holds Corporations
May Contribute to Fund Without Stockholders' Vote

A letter from Governor Whitman to
President Wilson pledging the state's
aid in the second war fund campaign of
the American Red Cross, which starts
Monday, will leave Belmont Park for
Washington this morning in the first
aeroplane mail.

The Red Cross communication was
turned over to Postmaster Patten yester-
day by Frank X. Disney, of the
New York State Defense Council, who
brought it down from Albany. Im-
mediately on receipt of it the post-
master announced his proposal to give
it precedence over all other mail
scheduled to leave for Washington
when the air service opens this morn-
ing.

It seems to me highly appropriate,"
said Mr. Patten, "that the first letter—
the first to be stamped, cancelled and
postmarked, the first to be placed in
the mail pouch and the first to be de-
livered—in the first United States
aerial postal route should be this com-
munication."

It is equally appropriate that this
letter to the President of the United
States, which is the first letter of the
Red Cross, should pledge the cooperation
of the State of New York in the cam-
paign to raise a second war fund of
\$100,000,000 for the organization.